

Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106

Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel
(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent
When You Are Afraid, Give Me Your Hand

December 21, 2025
10:30am MT

Order of Worship

Welcome Pastor Dave

Prelude *Triptych on 'Salvation unto Us Has Come' I. Prelude* Paulette McClellan
by Joel Martinson

*Candle Lighting Bonnie Sanchez's Care Group

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

All: We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

Leader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

Light candle

All: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

*Opening Hymn *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming* 136

*Opening Prayer Charlotte Hoppe

Immanuel, we turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet and combed back fly-away hairs. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you. So as we hear your Word read aloud, help us to feel your presence in our midst. For we are reaching out our hands. We are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray, amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Charlotte

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

One: A word from God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with us at office@montevista.org.)

Prayer Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

144 (vv 1-3)

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Pastor Dave

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Holy One, our Mother and Father, let your name be revered. Let your kin-dom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in the heavens. Give us today the bread we need for today. And forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Come, Love Divine
Trad., arr. by Larry Shackley

Vista Voices

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 41:5-10

Pastor Dave

The coastlands have seen and are afraid; the ends of the earth tremble; they have drawn near and come. Each one helps the other, saying to one another, "Take courage!" The artisan encourages the goldsmith, and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the one who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good," and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved. But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant; I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

One: A word from God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Give Me Your Hand: You Are Not Alone

Pastor Dave

Special Music

Ukrainian Bell Carol
arr. by Linda Scholes

Vista Bells

Sharing in Communion and Stewardship

Invitation to the Table

Joni Harstine

(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on [our website](#),
on the [Givelify app](#), or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)

*Communion Hymn

Let the Fires of Justice Grow

Words of Institution

Pastor Dave

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Joni

Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Dave

Invitation to the Community of MVCC

Pastor Dave

*Closing Hymn

We're Not Alone

*Announcements

Pastor Dave

*Benediction

Pastor Dave

Postlude

Wake, Awake! For Night is Flying!
by Dennis Eliot; based on a 16th c. melody by Philipp Nicolai

Paulette

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Charlotte Hoppe, Worship Leader  
Wally Miller, Sound

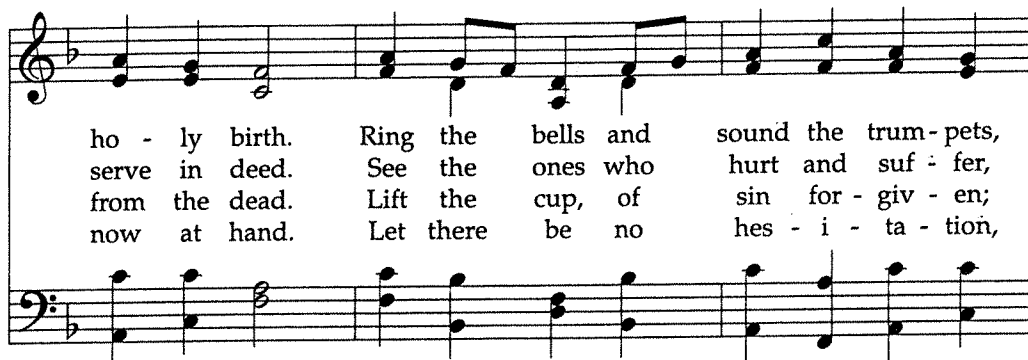
Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist  
Rev. Dave McVey, Interim Minister, Preaching & Presiding



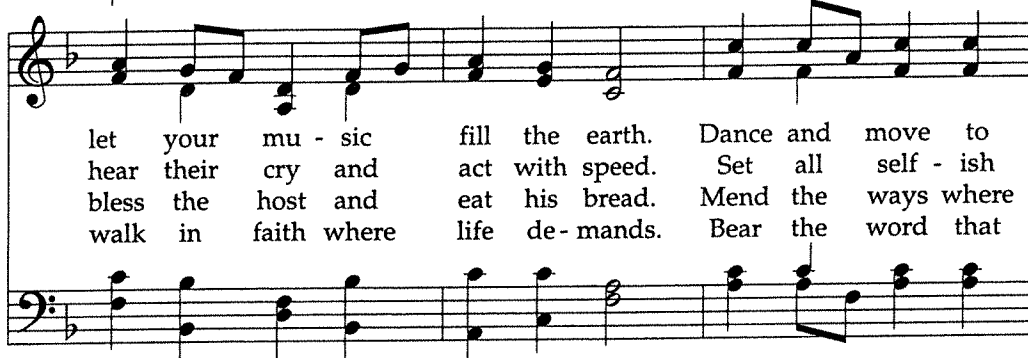
## 136 Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming



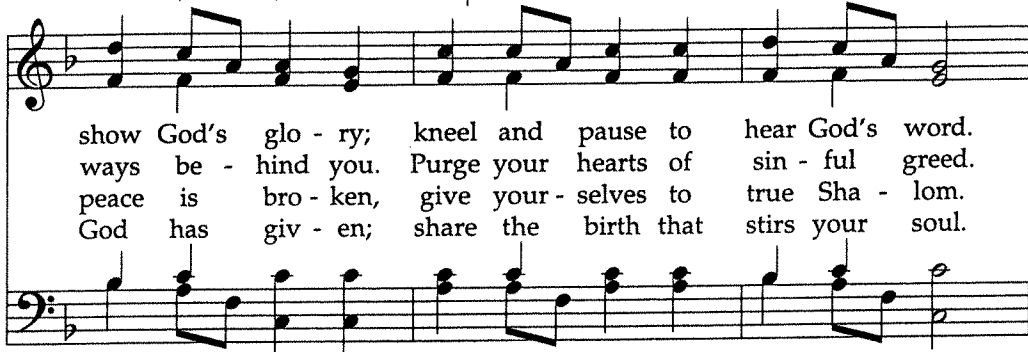
1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in  
 2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to  
 3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up  
 4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is



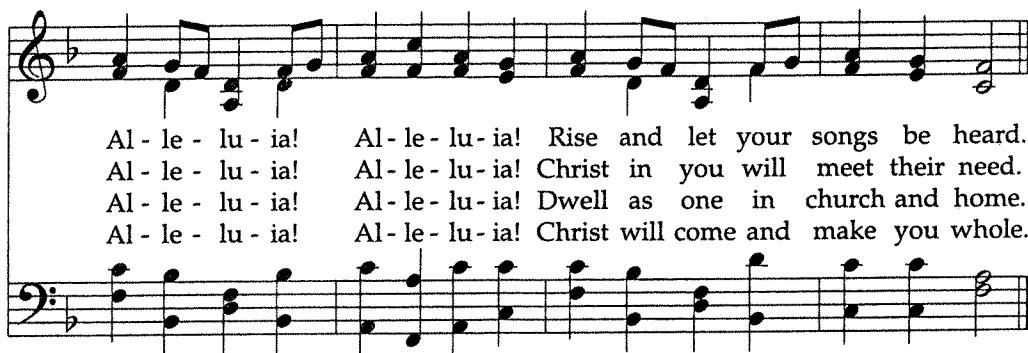
ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,  
 serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf - fer,  
 from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for - giv - en;  
 now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,



let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to  
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish  
 bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where  
 walk in faith where life de-mands. Bear the word that



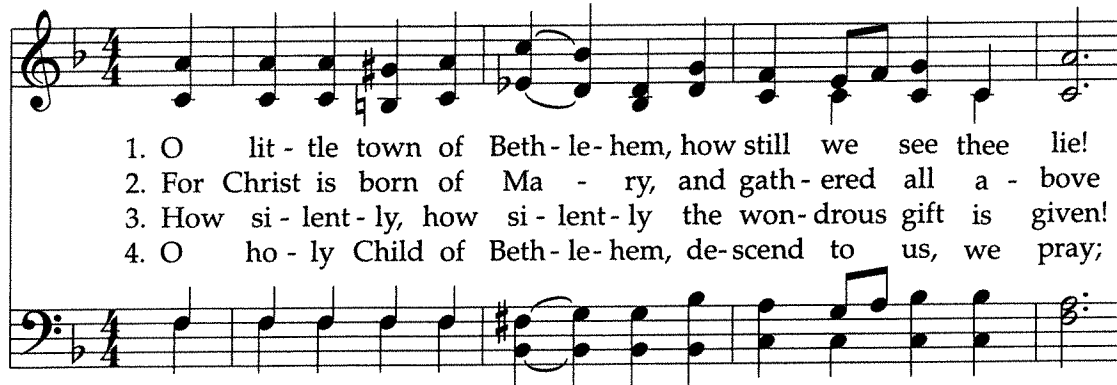
show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.  
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.  
 peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.  
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.



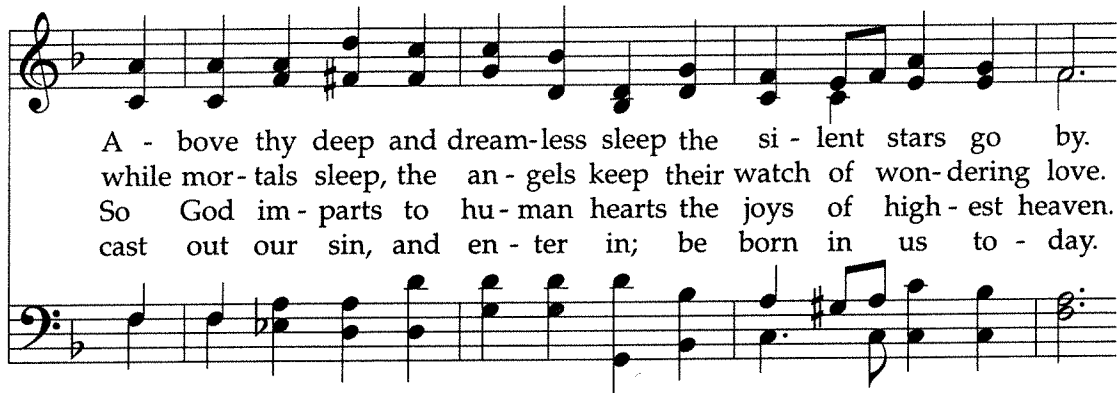
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

## 144

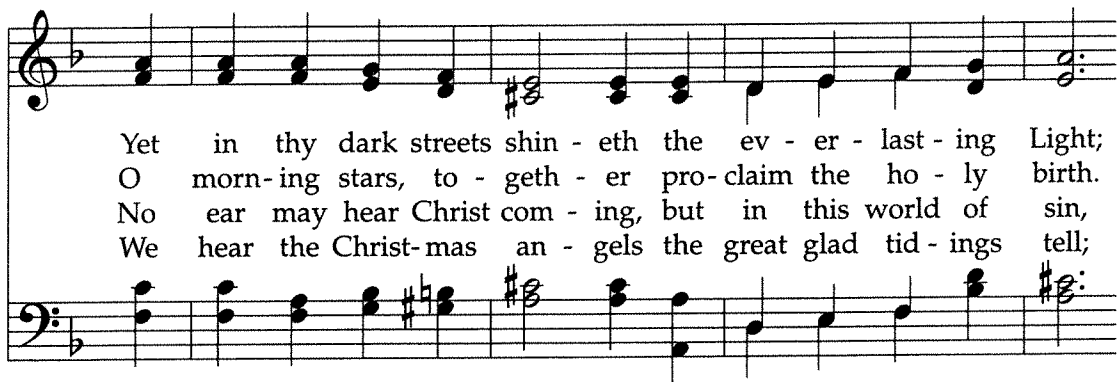
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



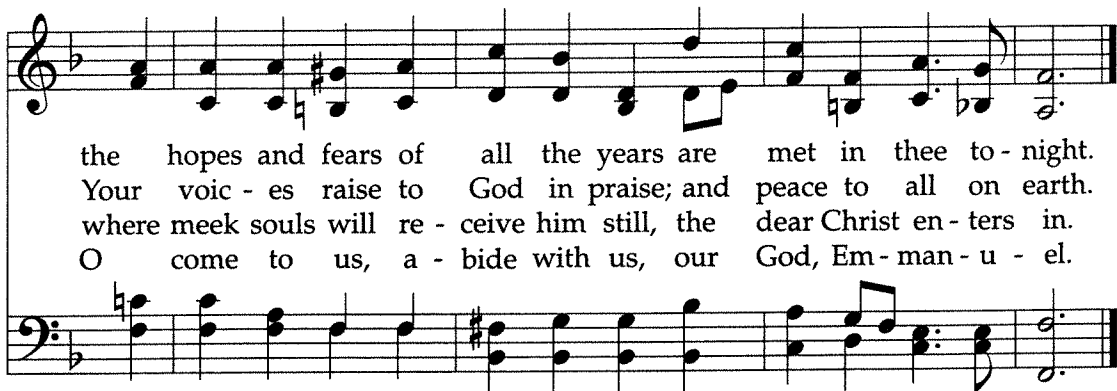
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the joys of high - est heaven.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth.  
 No ear may hear Christ com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 Your voic - es raise to God in praise; and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our God, Em - man - u - el.



First Sunday After Christmas | What do you fear?  
**LET FEAR FUEL A FIRE FOR JUSTICE**

# Let the Fires of Justice Grow

JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7 D

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Melody from Tennessee Harmony, 1818; arr. Anna Strickland, 2025

Fear is grow - ing all a - round us, plant - ed there by hu - man power  
Bind the chaff and light the mat - ches, let the fires of jus - tice grow  
A - ny - where God's chil - dren suf - fer, a - ny - where they live in fear

5

Chok - ing out our li - ber - a - tion as King He - rod o'er us towers  
Watch the flames con - sume our bon - dage, trans - form - ing our fear to hope  
A - ny - where op - pres - sion deep - ens, a - ny - where they sow in tears

9

Yet the force of hu - man em - pires can't take root in kin - dom ground  
May the fire that we ig - ni - ted fuel us for the work a - head  
Let us shine the light of jus - tice, fueled by fear that had us bound

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## Let the Fires of Justice Grow

13

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring a series of eighth and quarter notes with some ties. The bass staff provides a harmonic foundation with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

We'll up - root the fear they plan - ted, li - ber - ate those whom they bound  
Free the cap - tive, heal the bro - ken, fol - low - ing where Christ has led  
Hand in hand, pro - claim God's kin - dom 'til we top - ple ev - ery crown

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?  
WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID, GIVE ME YOUR HAND

# We're Not Alone

ADESTE FIDELES Irr. with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by John Francis Wade, 1751

Fear all a - round you tells you you're a - lone — Urg - ing you to build  
Give me your hand to hold when you feel frigh - tened We can up - hold each  
When peo - ple live in fear — for their safe - ty Let us put priv - ilege  
For - ward we march to - geth - er toward God's kin - dom Build - ing a big - ger

walls and i - so - late I know your fear be - cause I feel it, too —  
o - ther in — our fear Per - son by per - son, we'll find strength to - geth - er  
on the line — for them Stand with our sib - lings in — sol - i - dar - i - ty  
ta - ble, not tall - er walls Work - ing to - geth - er, no - thing is im - poss - i - ble

12  
When fear grows deep in - side us, re - mem - ber what u - nites us

17  
No, no - thing can di - vide us; we're not a - lone

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